

Message Text

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SUBJ: MARCH 17 CONSULTATION OF CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

REF: ROME 3573

SUMMARY: THE MARCH 17 CONSULTATIVE MEETING ACCEPTED THE UNITED
KINGDOM-GERMANY PROPOSAL FOR A COORDINATED DEMARCHE TO DEVELOP-
ING COUNTRIES ON THE NEED FOR SECRET BALLOT FOR DETERMINING
THE PERMANENT SEAT OF IFAD, AND A WORKING GROUP IS TO MEET MARCH
22 TO MODIFY THE ITALIAN FORMULA LANGUAGE TO DEAL ONLY WITH
THE QUESTION OF THE SITE, THIS BEING ANCONDITION IMPOSED BY THE
SCANDINAVIANS WHO ARE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT A GENERAL FORMULA
FOR SECRET BALLOTS ON ALL SENSITIVE ISSUES. THE UNITED STATES
POSITION THAT THE OPEC COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT HAVE BOTH THE
PRESIDENCY OF IFAD AND THE PERMANENT SITE WAS NOT OPPOSED.
SUBJECT TO THIS CONSIDERATION, NO OBJECTION WAS SEEN TO ACCEPTING
AN OPEC CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, THE ONLY PRESENT
CANDIDATE BEING AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY OT SAUDI ARABIA.
IT WAS AGREED THAT CATEGROY ONE COUNTRIES SHOULD INSIST UPON
AL-SUDEARY'S NOMINATION OF THEIR CANDIDATE FOR THE VICE
PRESIDENCY. THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO
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PAGE 02 ROME 04574 212254Z

NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CATEGORY
ONE COUNTRIES, AND THIS WAS NOTED, AND EXPLICITLY ENDORSED
BY GERMANY. THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES OF IFAD, NOTED INDICATIONS THAT THE IFAD SECRETARIAT
IS PLANNING FOR A LARGER STAFF THAN COMTEMPLATED, AND TOOK A
ROLL-CALL ON EXPECTED DATES FOR RATITICATION OF THE IFAD
AGREEMENT BY CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES. SOME LAGGAGES IN EXPECTED
RATIFICATION ARE DEVELOPING BECAUSE OF ELECTIONS IN BELGIUM AND
DENMARK AND A NEW REQUIREMENT FOR POPULAR REFERENDUM IN
SWITZERLAND. END SUMMARY

1. THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) WAS HELD AS SCHEDULED ON MARCH 17 IN THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN ROME UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PAUL ALPEN OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, THE INTERSESSIONAL CHAIRMAN OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS. CHRISTIAN WILL OF GERMANY, THE CHAIRMAN OF CATEGORY I CONSULTATIONS DURING IFAD MEETINGS, ATTENDED, AND JOSEPH WINDER REPRESENTED THE UNITED STATES. OTHERWISE THE REPRESENTATIVES WERE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED IN ROME.

2. THE MAIN DISCUSSION WAS OF THE PROBLEM OF THE PERMANENT SITE OF IFAD, AND THE RELATED QUESTION OF THE VOTING PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING IT. THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY HAD PROPOSED COORDINATED REPRESENTATIONS TO SELECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE QUESTION OF SECRET BALLOT ON SELECTION OF THE SITE. ITALY HAD FORMULATED TWO ALTERNATIVE FORMULAS TO MODIFY THE EXISTING TEXT OF THE DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE, TO CALL FOR SECRET BALLOT ON THE SITE AND OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. THE UNITED STATES QUESTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A DEMARCHE, AND PROPOSED INSTEAD THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO DEFER DECISION ON A PERMANENT SITE. THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND SOME OTHERS OPPOSED THE PRINCIPLE OF SECRET BALLOTS. AFTER MANY HOURS OF DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT A COORDINATED DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE ON THE QUESTION OF SECRET BALLOT ON THE PERMANENT SITE. THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AGREED NOT TO OPPOSE THIS, IF IT WERE LIMITED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 ROME 04574 212254Z

QUESTION OF THE SITE, BUT SAID THEY WOULD NOT THEMSELVES TAKE PART IN THE COORDINATED DEMARCHE. THE UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY, AND SOME OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING AD REFERENDUM THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE COORDINATED DEMARCHE BEFORE THE APRIL MEETING. IT WAS AGREED THAT ITALY SHOULD NOT TAKE PART, ALTHOUGH IT WAS WILLING, BECAUSE THIS WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE ITALIAN CANDIDACY FOR THE PERMANENT SITE. A WORKING GROUP IS TO FORMULATE NEW LANGUAGE FOR THIS COORDINATED DEMARCHE, SINCE THE ITALIAN FORMULAS DEALT WITH ISSUES IN ADDITION TO THE SITE SUBSEQUENTLY IT HAD BEEN FIXED THAT THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDING THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, WILL MEET AT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 22.) SEVERAL COUNTRIES SUPPORTED THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE DECISION ON THE PERMANENT SITE SHOULD BE DEFERRED, AND NONE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO IT.

3. ON THE PRESIDENCY AND OTHER TOP POSTS, IT WAS READILY AGREED THAT THE CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES WOULD ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF THE CATEGORY TWO (OPEC) COUNTRIES FOR THE PRESIDENCY, THE PRESENT SINGLE OPEC CANDIDATE BEING AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY OF SAUDI ARABIA. THE ONLY QUALIFICATION OF THIS WAS THE U.S. ADVOCACY THAT OPEC SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME HAVE BOTH THE PRESIDENCY AND THE PERMANENT SITE, TO WHICH NO ONE DISAGREED. THE VICE-PRESIDENCY SHOULD COME TO A CATEGORY ONE REPRESENTATIVE, TO WHICH THERE WAS

NO DISAGREEMENT. THE UNITED STATES INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE, WHOM IT HOPED WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY OTHER CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES. THE OTHERS TOOK NOTE OF THIS U.S. INTENTION, AND GERMANY EXPRESSED EXPLICIT SUPPORT. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENCY IS NOT ELECTIVE BUT APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, BUT IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT CATEGORY ONE SHOULD INSIST ON DESIGNATING THE VICE-PRESIDENT INFORMALLY. BELGIUM RAISED A QUESTION ABOUT POSTS FOR CATEGORY 3, AND IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL REMAINS FOR THEM IF THEY WISH, AND A NUMBER OF CATEGORY 3 PEOPLE PRESUMABLY WILL BE APPOINTED FOR POSTS IN THE SECRETARIAT.

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PAGE 04 ROME 04574 212254Z

4. THE QUESTION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S ACTIVITIES WAS DISCUSSED, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE U.K. REPRESENTATIVE WOULD FORMULATE A REVISION OF THE PRESENT DRAFT THAT WOULD SATISFY THE CONCERNS OF FRANCE.

5. IT WAS NOTED THAT IN NEGOTIATING WITH ITALY, AND IN A DOCUMENT JUST ISSUED, THE SECRETARIAT OF IFAD IS CALLING FOR A STAFF GREATLY IN EXCESS OF THAT CONTEMPLATED, INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON THIS DIFFERED, BUT IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THIS IS OF CONCERN TO ALL OF THE CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES AND TO OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND NOT A MATTER FOR SIMPLE NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE HOST COUNTRY AND IFAD.

6. THE TIMING OF RATIFICATION OF THE IFAD AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED. THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO RATIFY ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, BUT WISHED TO COORDINATE ITS RATIFICATION WITH OTHER CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES, HOPEFULLY IN THE MAY-JUNE PERIOD. A ROLL-CALL OF THE COUNTRIES WAS HELD, WHICH REVEALED SOME LAGGAGES IN PREVIOUS ESTIMATES, MOST NOTEDLY THE NEW REQUIREMENT IN SWITZERLAND THAT IF AN ISSUE IS RAISED, A POPULAR REFERENDUM WITH THREE MONTHS CONSIDERATION MAY BE REQUIRED, AND THE GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED IN BELGIUM AND DENMARK. THE ROLL-CALL RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: AUSTRIA, EARLY FALL; BELGIUM, UNCERTAIN BECAUSE OF ELECTIONS; CANADA, NO INFORMATION (OTHER SOURCES INDICATE IMMEDIATE READINESS); DENMARK, UNCERTAIN BECAUSE OF ELECTIONS; FINLAND, END OF MAY; FRANCE, DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER EASTER RECESS, PROBABLY JULY OR AUGUST; GERMANY, MAY OR JUNE; IRELAND, END OF MAY; ITALY, BY AUTUMN; JAPAN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THE DIET ADJOURNS IN JULY; NETHERLANDS, MAY IF NO QUESTION IS RAISED REQUIRING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE; NEW ZEALAND, JULY; NORWAY, MAY; SPAIN, BEFORE JUNE ELECTIONS; SWEDEN, MAY OR EARLY JUNE; SWITZERLAND, AS NOTED ABOVE, SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER IF THE REFERENDUM PROCEDURE IS PUT INTO EFFECT; UNITED KINGDOM, WITHIN A MONTH. GARDNER

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